

Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC \$4M expansion and renovation celebrated during ribbon cutting ceremony

Legislators, local and state officials, business and industry leaders, and students enjoyed a special ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Hughes Jones - Harrodsburg Area Technology Center's expansion project. The event was held September 16 at 1:00 p.m.



The ceremony was purposely built with the inclusion of students – designing the agenda, singing the national anthem, introducing guest speakers, and providing guided tours. It was a proud moment for all of the instructors when their students stepped up to the plate to positively promote their school.

Special guest speakers included Kentucky State Senator Dan Kelly, Helen W. Mountjoy, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary; Mercer Co. Judge Executive John Trisler and Dr. H.M. Snodgrass, former Harrodsburg Independent superintendent.

Photo: At podium singing the national anthem, Jordan Leigh, a 16-year old hometown country music star.

*From left to right:
Zac Wiley, FBLA vice president (business);
Emily Miller, HOSA treasurer (health science); Elizabeth McCoy, SkillsUSA secretary (welding);
HJH-ATC principal Duane Flora, Snodgrass, Trisler, Kelly, and Mountjoy.*



Senator Dan Kelly:

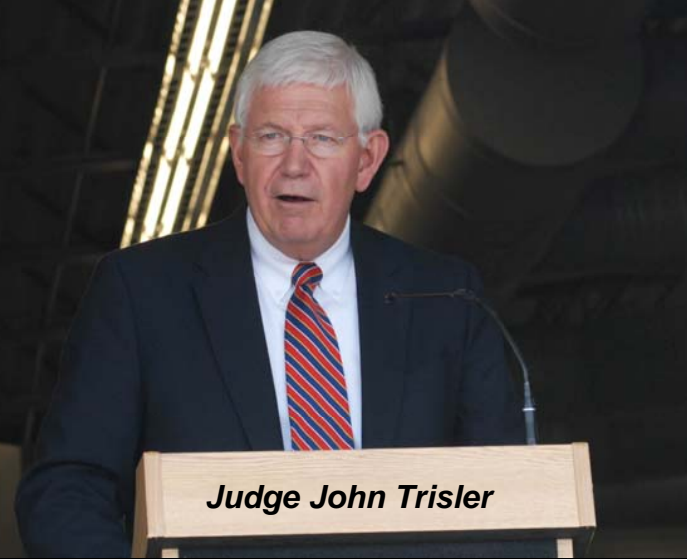
"It's great to see this expanded structure that will allow more of our youth an opportunity for technical training. High-tech skills for our youth are essential for their success and the future of our community."



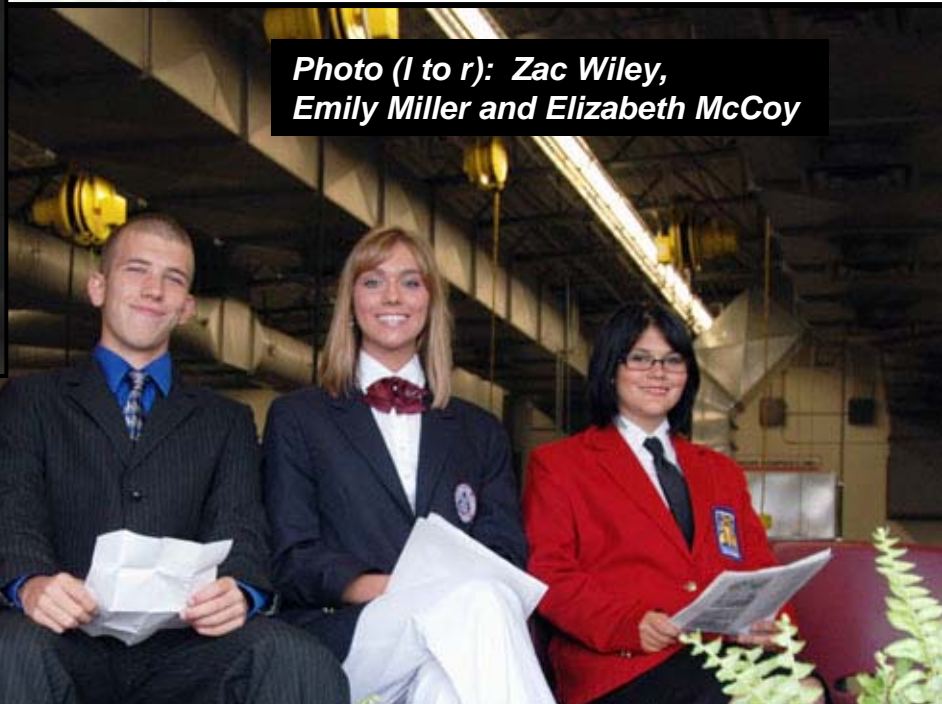
Helen W. Mountjoy:

"This project was accomplished because of the collaboration of local and state governments and the local school system along with the support of local businesses."

"Thank you for your efforts to make this project such a success for the communities and especially for the students it will serve."



Judge John Trisler



***Photo (l to r): Zac Wiley,
Emily Miller and Elizabeth McCoy***



Dr. H.M. Snodgrass



Above (l to r): Danny Wilder, HJH-ATC information technology instructor, accepts a donation from Walt Williams, director of information technology, Hitachi Automotive Products (USA), Inc.

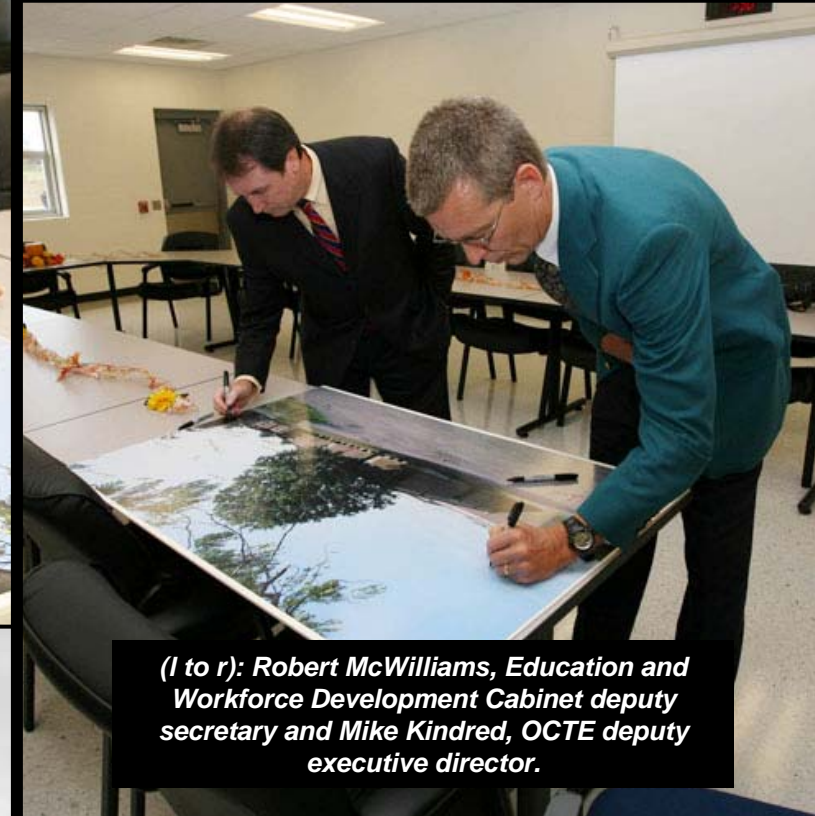
“One of Hitachi’s guiding principles is to be a good corporate citizen,” said Williams. “We believe in the programs offered at this school and wanted to make a donation to show our support.”

Signing the official school photo

Prior to the ceremony, two HOSA officers (at right) displayed an enlarged photo of the school. Visitors were asked to sign the photo for posterity. It will be framed and hung in the main office.



Above: Elizabeth McCoy and Secretary Mountjoy take a moment to officially sign the photo.



(l to r): Robert McWilliams, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet deputy secretary and Mike Kindred, OCTE deputy executive director.



At left: Students representing three student organizations (FBLA, SkillsUSA and HOSA) conducted tours throughout the building at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Above (l to r): Duane Flora, Kim Shaw, Anderson County superintendent; Bruce Johnson, Mercer County superintendent; Dr. H. M. Snodgrass, and Hughes Jones, former Harrodsburg ATC principal.



At left (l to r): Ray Woodyard, Anderson County HS principal; Beth Smith, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation executive director; Robert McWilliams, and John Marks, OCTE executive director.

Photo at right: Mary Stratton, KY Tech area supervisor; Chris King, HJH-ATC welding instructor and Warren Shelton, Corbin ATC welding instructor.

King:

“I was fortunate enough to have Warren Shelton as my welding instructor at the Corbin Area Technology Center in high school. While small in stature, he is big in attitude and ideas. When he speaks, you know to listen.

“Warren set me in the right direction. I never had another teacher care about me and my future as much as Warren Shelton did.

“I am now the welding instructor at HJH- ATC. To have Warren Shelton come to our ribbon- cutting ceremony and say he is proud of me was a distinct honor.”



At left: Jim Spurlock, Modine Manufacturing, Inc. engineer; Judge Trisler, King, and Pam Hoots, Modine Manufacturing Human Resource manager.

“Modine has been instrumental in providing our students with the supplies they need to learn and perform skills in our welding program,” said King. “They are interested in our school, programs, students, and training capabilities. It’s a win-win situation.”

The business and office connection...

Caitlyn and business instructor Damian Laymon



The ribbon-cutting ceremony agenda was designed by Caitlyn, a student in Damian Laymon's business program.

"Having a student design the agenda for the event was very meaningful," said Laymon. "This is really their school, so having their involvement in everything from speaking, conducting tours, and designing the agenda means a great deal to me."

"Preparing the agenda for the ribbon cutting ceremony was a good experience at administrative responsibilities and a good exercise in design," said Caitlyn. "It also provided me with new knowledge in alternative computer programs, such as Publisher."

Electrical technology students work behind the scenes

***Joe Fister
electrical technology
instructor:***

"I would have to say that by my students helping out with the electrical construction of our school, they believe they made a difference. They have a great deal of pride in their accomplishments.

"For example, my students set up the security cameras, ran wire, and installed clocks and lights. If any of those students see another student playing around by jumping up to smack a camera, clock, light or any other part of the school, they now stand up to vandalism."

In addition to working on electrical projects for the school, Fister's students were responsible for setting up the public address system for the ceremony.

Electrical technology instructor Joe Fister (khaki pants) and some of his students.



New Automotive Technology Lab equipped through business and industry donations

A new automotive lab and classroom was added as part of the \$4M expansion project. Automotive technology instructor Roc Moore couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. His modern, up-to-date classroom will now comfortably hold all of his students and his lab – well, to say the least, he is thrilled.

Moore:

"I am amazed and blessed by the support we have received from our state and local governments, business and industry partners, and community for the vision and completion of this new facility.

"We now have a state-of-the-art facility to compliment the best bunch of instructors and administrative staff a community could ever wish for.

"In addition, we received a new 12,000 lbs lift from Trim Masters, nine new computers from Hitachi and a Hunter alignment lift from Glen Toyota. Without the support of our industry partners, we would not have been able to equip this new shop for our students."

Photo (l to r): Doug Doris, Glen Toyota service manager; Mike Tewell, dealer principal, Glen Toyota, Frankfort and Roc Moore.

Tewell:

"What a great asset to the Harrodsburg community. We enjoy working with your students. You have provided Glenn Toyota with some great apprentice technicians."





(L to r): Vicki Long, health science instructor; Susan Readnower, allied health instructor; Emily Miller, allied health student and HOSA treasurer; and Patti Preston, health science instructor.

Preston:

"It really was a proud moment to have students, teachers, parents, business and industry leaders, post-secondary educators, and government leaders standing side by side to watch a ribbon being cut. Cutting that ribbon was like opening a gift on Christmas morning."

Readnower:

"It was a wonderful opportunity to show off the generous donations made to our programs by members of our community. We also saw it as a chance to show our gratitude for the investment they have made in our school, students, community and future."

"We are all proud of how well Emily did introducing Senator Kelly during the ceremony. She is an exceptional student and outstanding HOSA officer."



Principal Duane Flora

Duane Flora knows the value of a hard-working, dedicated faculty and staff. So, it was no surprise when his troops rallied with an all out effort to get their school cleaned up, classrooms put in order, and students working on projects to ensure a successful ribbon-cutting ceremony.

It wasn't until the ceremony was over that he realized the impact it had on his students.

"The highlight of the day for me was when I heard positive comments from the parents of our students during the open house," said Flora. "Five different parents shared with me that they had to come to the open house to

see why their child was so excited about attending our school. To me, it means my teachers are making a difference in the lives of students and that's what counts."

According to health science instructor Vicki Long:

"The ribbon cutting was a very surreal moment for me. Prior to Hughes Jones' retirement, he told me he hoped the next principal would have a vision for an addition to our school.

"Duane Flora was selected as our new principal and he had that vision - a vision for a new, improved training environment.

"Duane deserves so much credit. He spent many long hours seeking support and funding, not to mention the time he put in planning and overseeing the project. We all appreciate his efforts. "

Brief historical overview

When Duane Flora became principal of the ATC in 2004, Mercer County Judge Executive John Trisler was one of his first visitors. Trisler asked Flora about his vision for the school. Expansion of the facility was the number one priority.

Flora relayed to Trisler that technology, pre-engineering and academic classrooms; new labs and a multi-purpose room would provide the space for his school to deliver more services to students, as well as to the community. Another overriding factor was safety. The old building was not adequately equipped to handle the number of students enrolled at the school and deliver the new technology required to meet industry needs.

Trisler and former Harrodsburg Independent Superintendent Dr. H.M. Snodgrass became involved in garnering local and state support for the project. They enlisted the help of Kentucky State Senator Dan Kelly and State Representative Milward Dedman. Because the ATC served three other school districts at the time, Flora contacted those superintendents for their support. The hard work of many resulted in the positive outcome of expanding and modernizing the facility.

The \$4 million dollar project funded an additional 21,000 square feet to the facility. The ATC is now an impressive 43,000 square feet including a new canopy at its entrance. Existing classrooms were also renovated. Teachers and students are just beginning to appreciate their new labs and classrooms. As well, industry representatives have already begun using the multi-purpose room and welding lab.

Good News Flash #254

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